

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Withdrawn): A method for transacting transfers of commodities, the method comprising:

observing the price of a commodity at observation points over a period of time;

specifying a maximum price;

for each of the observation points, selecting the maximum price in the event the observed price is greater than the maximum price, and selecting the observed price in the event the observed price is less than the maximum price;

calculating a price for a quantity of the commodity based on the average of the selected prices and a premium above the average; and

paying to a seller of the quantity of the commodity an amount based upon the calculated price.

Claim 2 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 1, wherein the selected price is a per unit price X, the premium is a per unit price Y, the quantity is Z units, and the calculated price is equivalent to $(X + Y) * Z$.

Claim 3 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 1, wherein the seller is a producer.

Claim 4 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 1, wherein the seller is a reseller of commodities.

Claim 5 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 1, wherein the commodity includes one of crude oil, heating oil, unleaded gasoline, jet fuel, kerosene, propane, water, communication or computing bandwidth, semiconductor chips, pollution/emission rights, gold, silver, palladium, aluminum, copper, steel, and lead.

Claim 6 (Original): A method comprising:

preparing contracts for delivery of quantities of a commodity between a buyer and producers; and

aggregating the contracts into a smaller number of contracts between the buyer and a derivatives provider.

Claim 7 (Currently amended): The method of claim 6, wherein the smaller number of contracts include options that limit prices for the smaller number of contracts to no more than a predetermined level.

Claim 8 (Original): The method of claim 6, further comprising:

transmitting payments between the derivatives provider and the buyer; and

transmitting payments between the buyer and the producers.

Claim 9 (Original): The method of claim 6, further comprising maintaining anonymity between the derivatives provider and the producers.

Claim 10 (Currently amended): The method of claim 6, further comprising preparing the smaller number of contracts by preparing contracts between ~~the reseller as~~ a reseller services company and preparing contracts between the reseller services company and the derivatives provider.

Claim 11 (Original): The method of claim 6, wherein the commodity includes one of crude oil, heating oil, unleaded gasoline, jet fuel, kerosene, propane, water, communication or computing bandwidth, semiconductor chips, pollution/emission rights, gold, silver, palladium, aluminum, copper, steel, and lead.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): A method for transacting transfers of commodities, the method comprising:

observing the price of a commodity at observation points over a period of time;

specifying a minimum price;

for each of the observation points, selecting the minimum price in the event the observed price is less than the minimum price, and selecting the observed price in the event the observed price is greater than the minimum price;

calculating a price for a quantity of the commodity based on the average of the selected prices and a discount below the average; and

paying to a seller of the quantity of the commodity an amount based upon the calculated price.

AD
Claim 13 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 12, wherein the selected price is a per unit price X, the premium is a per unit price Y, the quantity is Z units, and the calculated price is equivalent to $(X - Y) * Z$.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 12, wherein the seller is a producer.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 12, wherein the seller is a reseller of commodities.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 12, wherein the commodity includes one of crude oil, heating oil, unleaded gasoline, jet fuel, kerosene, propane, water, communication or computing bandwidth, semiconductor chips, pollution/emission rights, gold, silver, palladium, aluminum, copper, steel, and lead.

Claim 17 (Original): A method for transacting transfers of commodities, the method comprising:

preparing contracts for delivery of quantities of a commodity between a buyer and sellers;
aggregating the contracts into a smaller number of contracts between the buyer and a derivatives provider;

observing the price of the commodity at observation points over a period of time;
specifying a minimum price;

for each of the observation points, selecting the minimum price in the event the observed price is less than the minimum price, and selecting the observed price in the event the observed price is greater than the minimum price;

calculating a price for a quantity of the commodity based on the average of the selected prices and a discount below the average; and

paying to each seller an amount based upon the calculated price.

Claim 18 (Original): The method of claim 17, further comprising executing a financial swap between the buyer and the derivatives provider.

Claim 19 (Currently amended): The method of claim 17, further comprising:
executing a financial swap between the buyer and a[[n]] reseller service company; and
executing a financial swap between the reseller service company and the derivatives provider.

Claim 20 (Original): The method of claim 17, further comprising receiving a marketing fee from the derivatives provider.

Claim 21 (Original): The method of claim 17, further comprising hedging the risks of the aggregated contracts.

Claim 22 (Original): The method of claim 17, further comprising maintaining anonymity between the derivatives provider and the sellers.

Claim 23 (Original): A method for transacting transfers of commodities, the method comprising:

preparing contracts for delivery of quantities of a commodity between a buyer and sellers;
aggregating the contracts into a smaller number of contracts between the buyer and a derivatives provider;

observing the price of the commodity at observation points over a period of time;
specifying a maximum price;

for each of the observation points, selecting the maximum price in the event the observed price is greater than the maximum price, and selecting the observed price in the event the observed price is less than the maximum price;

calculating a price for a quantity of the commodity based on the average of the selected prices and a premium above the average; and

paying to each seller an amount based upon the calculated price.

Claim 24 (Original): The method of claim 23, further comprising executing a financial swap between the buyer and the derivatives provider.

Claim 25 (Currently amended.): The method of claim 23, further comprising:
executing a financial swap between the buyer and a[[n]] reseller service company; and
executing a financial swap between the reseller service company and the derivatives provider.

Claim 26 (Original): The method of claim 23, further comprising receiving a marketing fee from the derivatives provider.

Claim 27 (Original): The method of claim 23, further comprising hedging the risks of the aggregated contracts.

Claim 28 (Original): The method of claim 23, further comprising maintaining anonymity between the derivatives provider and the sellers.
